



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

A Word of Appreciation

Nancy and I would like to express our appreciation for the loving kindness shown to us over the past several weeks following the loss of our son, Herve'. The outpouring of affection from your cards, calls, visits and even gifts has been exceptional. We are especially grateful to you for the prayer support we have experienced from you, our church family, as well as from other people all over the country. God has kept us going and will continue to do so. We believe that and knowing that is also a great comfort.

That being said, we know that healing takes time. I don't think that there is anything that quite compares with losing one of your children. Personally, I have never felt this way before (I know that Nancy agrees with me) and pray that those of you who have not gone through this experience will never have to. Be patient with us as we heal and know that we are grateful for your support.

Your Further Generosity

I have mentioned to you previously, usually at parish meetings, that as a parish we are obligated to tithe to the diocese and through the diocese to the national church. Over the years we have sent a good deal of money to the Diocese of the Holy Cross. Usually this money is used by the bishop of the diocese for expenses for traveling and administration of diocesan affairs. Since we have not had a diocesan bishop for

several years the Vestry decided a few years ago to discontinue our tithe to the diocese while continuing to send the appropriate amount to the EMC. The remainder of the funds which we would have sent to our diocese has been distributed to charities both here in the Austin area and nationally and even internationally. The Presiding Bishop has approved our plan for these tithe funds and the Vestry has asked me to make you aware of the most recent distribution of these funds.

The Charities Committee (Bill Ducker, Brian Hoard and I) approved sending the following amounts on your behalf:

\$3000 to Safe Place of Austin. This organization, as you may know, provides shelter and support for abused women and children.

\$3000 to the Ronald McDonald House of Austin which provides housing for out-of-town families with children in local hospitals.

\$3000 to the local chapter of the Salvation Army. Their work with the poor and homeless is known world wide.

\$3000 to Operation Blessing International. This is an arm of the Christian Broadcasting Network. They have been providing relief services to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita since day one and also provide these services internationally when the need arises.

\$3000 to the American Center for Law and Justice

The ACLJ is the Christian response to the ACLU. This organization works tirelessly to defend your religious freedom through the local and federal courts.

We also sent over \$4200 dollars to a family in New Orleans area that lost everything during Katrina last year. We checked them out and the need was indeed genuine.

Ten per cent of the funds we were required to tithe went to Bishop Millsaps for his ministry as our Presiding Bishop.

None of this would have been possible were it not for your generosity. The Vestry considers this giving part of the outreach ministry of our parish. What we are not able to do by ourselves we can do by assisting others who are better equipped in particular areas. I believe we will continue to minister in this way until such a time as we have a diocesan bishop. We will then have to reevaluate our giving in this way and probably send much of these funds to the bishop.

Some Summer Changes

This will be the last newsletter until September. It's not that nothing happens during the summer but some of our activities do shut down. Barring some unforeseen circumstance, there will be no Vestry meeting in July or August. Likewise, Sunday School has been suspended until the Fall to give our students and our teachers time to relax and enjoy some vacation time. The Vestry has decided to move the early service to 9:30 am on Sunday during the summer months. One of the reasons is to determine if this is a better time for people who wish to worship earlier than 11 am. Should this prove to be a more favorable time for the earlier service we will have to make some other decision about the adult education class at 9:30.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!!!!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Christian Education

The swim party hosted by the Rambins was a fabulous way to end Sunday school classes for this year. The food was great, the setting unsurpassable, and the fun in great abundance. Nearly everyone who was currently attending Sunday school was at the party, along with a family that plans to attend next year. This was an enjoyable social event that helped to tighten our bonds as a church family. Classes will take a break for the summer and resume on September 10 -- the Sunday after Labor Day.

My thanks go to the adults who stepped up to teach classes this year: John and Wanda Stults, along with Steve McCown led our teenagers this year; Leann Read and Pam and David Stephan worked with the elementary aged children who were readers; and Kay Francis worked with the youngest children at the beginning of the year. Thanks also to Jim Crandell and Claire Ducker for stepping in to substitute when the need arose. All either volunteered to teach or were quite receptive when asked. This makes my job so much easier.

If you have an interest or gift in working with our children by teaching a class for a few weeks this coming year, please let me know. The teenagers generally have a lesson that involves reading and much discussion, while the younger children learn by reading, supplemented with activities that support the Bible story. The youngest class of non-readers has activities involving art and games along with a Bible story. I have said before: we have a unique group of children at St. Francis some of whom are very knowledgeable of the Bible and all who are quite bright and eager to participate in the class activities. I know I speak for each Sunday school teacher by saying it is a joy and a privilege to work with these children.

Retirement Center and Nursing Home Visit

The children of St. Francis are scheduled to be at the Retirement and Nursing Center on Burnet Lane the last Sunday of July (the 30th) from 3:30-4:30. We agreed to visit on the 5th Sunday -- even if the 5th Sunday is during a vacation. The residents very much appreciate the children leading the service of prayers, Bible readings and many hymns. Thanks to Sylvia Kelley for providing our accompaniment and to Mary St. Martin for baking several dozen homemade cookies these past couple of visits. Thanks to the parents who bring themselves and their children to support this outreach project. We have done this for nearly two years now and I plan to keep coordinating the effort as this is important to do.

-Amy Crandell



MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP

All mothers and grandmothers of the church are invited to attend the mothers' prayer group at the home of Kay Francis, 10004 Jupiter Hills. The group spends an hour on the second Monday of every month at 11 a.m. praying for their families. For more information, call Kay Francis at (512) 280-6022.

Rector: The Reverend Len Giacalone
Senior Warden: Mark Rambin
Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthdays

3	Joe McIlhaney
5	Rev. Len Giacalone
6	Lyle Garrison
9	Aleksander Denslow
10	Cassandra Watkins
15	Jill Brasuell Charlotte Ready
18	Nancy Jones
26	Kevin McCommon
27	Anna Burnette
30	Sylvia Kelley

Anniversaries

9	Joe and Marion McIlhaney Thomas and Lorraine Pangle Mike and Charlotte Ready
11	Steve and Amanda Ogden
23	Paul Crozier/Jill Partington



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults
Organist: Sylvia Kelley
Server: Ray Merrill

Newsletter Submissions

Any parishioner that has news of any kind they would like to share with everyone is welcome to send it in writing to Erika Denslow at 640 B Lakeside Dr., Wimberley, TX 78676 or to her e-mail address (triciadenslow@yahoo.com). If received by the 20th, it will appear in next month's newsletter.

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1408 West 9th Street

Austin, Texas 78703

MAY

2006

2	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m. Games Night, 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.	18	Father's Day <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Ezekiel 31:1-6,10-14 Psalm 92, 2 Cor. 5:1-10, Mark 4:26- 34
4	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., <u>Morn- ing Prayer and Holy Communion</u> , 11:00 a.m., Acts 2:1-11, Psalm 104:25-37 (1 Cor. 12:4-13), John 20:19-23	23	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
9	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.	25	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Job 38:1-11, 16-18 Psalm 107:1-32, 2 Cor. 5:14-21 Mark 4:35-41
11	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Exodus 3:1-6, Psalm 93 Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-16	30	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
12	Mother's Prayer Group, 11 a.m. Vestry Meeting, 5:30 p.m.		
16	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.		